

We Claim:

1. A decorative carapace for a burial vault comprising:
a carapace having a top surface; and
a substrate having a decorative graphic, said substrate being attached to said top surface of said carapace.
2. The decorative carapace according to claim 1 wherein said substrate is adhered to said carapace using adhesive.
3. The decorative carapace according to claim 1 wherein said substrate is transparent.
4. The decorative carapace according to claim 1 wherein said graphic is printed on said substrate.
5. The decorative carapace according to claim 1 wherein said substrate is formed from a material selected from the group of polyester, polypropylene, polyethylene, vinyl, acetate, acrylic, polystyrene, or polycarbonate.
6. The decorative carapace according to claim 4 wherein said substrate is adhered to said carapace using transparent adhesive.

7. A decorative funeral urn, comprising:
an urn having an exterior surface; and
a substrate having a decorative graphic, said substrate being attached to
said exterior surface of said urn.

8. The decorative urn according to claim 7 wherein said substrate is adhered
to said urn using adhesive.

9. The decorative urn according to claim 7 wherein said substrate is
transparent.

10. The decorative urn according to claim 7 wherein said graphic is printed on
said substrate.

11. The decorative urn according to claim 7 wherein said substrate is formed
from a material selected from the group of polyester, polypropylene, polyethylene, vinyl,
acetate, acrylic, polystyrene, or polycarbonate.

12. The decorative urn according to claim 9 wherein said substrate is adhered
to said urn using transparent adhesive.

13. The decorative urn according to claim 7 wherein said substrate completely encircles the urn.

14. A method for customizing the appearance of a carapace, comprising:
providing a carapace and clean a top surface thereof;
providing a substrate having a decorative graphic image printed on one side and an adhesive layer covered by a backing sheet on an opposite side;
peeling the backing sheet from one end of the substrate;
saturating the adhesive side of the substrate with a soap solution;
inverting the substrate so that the adhesive side is facing the top surface of the carapace and align the substrate with the carapace;
placing the substrate in contact with the surface of the carapace; and
removing the soap solution entrapped between the carapace and the substrate.

15. The method according to claim 14, further comprising the steps of:
cleaning the substrate; and
removing entrapped air bubbles.